

**TEST: What Do Fish Have to Do with Anything?**

You will need to use your dictionary skills to complete the vocabulary section of this test. Select the correct meaning and form for each of the following vocabulary words. Write the number of the correct vocabulary word and the letter of the correct meaning in the blank. **For example: 1/B** SOL 6.4

- 1.) **A. intently** adv: with close attention    **B. intent** n: will or purpose with which one does an act
- 2.) **A. contemplated** v: studied carefully    **B. contemplate** v: to have in view as a future event
- 3.) **A. vague** adj: determined, confirmed, or known; uncertain    **B. vaguely** adv: not clearly or definitely; in a general way
- 4.) **A. urgent** adj: requiring or compelling speedy action    **B. urgency** n: pressure; insistence

1. Before Mrs. Markham cut the poundcake, she  the serving on the box.

2. Willie looked  out of his fifth floor bedroom window in order to spot the man on the street.

3. Mrs. Markham was only  awake when Willie asked if he could go outside.

4. Willie felt a sense of  to learn about unhappiness and illness from the homeless man.

5. Look back at sentence **number 4** (above). How many words have a prefix, suffix, or both? **Write them on the lines below. Circle the prefix and suffix on each base word.** SOL 6.4

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you learn about the homeless man in the simile “His eyes, like high beams on a car, flashed up at Willie, then stopped”? SOL 6.5

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. He is tired and can't hold his eyes open. | c. He is comfortable around people. |
| b. He is sensitive to light.                 | d. He is intense and nervous.       |

7. What does Mrs. Markham mean when she says, “Maybe you can’t buy happiness, but you can rent a lot of it”? SOL 6.6

8. Which of the following events is *most* responsible for the growth we see in Willie? **Write your response in the box.** SOL 6.5

He begins to do his homework when his mother tells him to.

He learns about human needs while speaking with the homeless man.

He learns about a type of fish that lives in caves.

He recognizes that his mother is right about strangers.

9. Which of the following events is a direct result of an inner change in Willie? Place a check by your answer choice. SOL 6.5

☐

He stops asking questions that have no answers.

☐

He decides to study marine biology and learn about fish.

☐

He calls a shelter out of concern for the homeless man.

☐

He decides to give the rest of the pound cake to the homeless man.

10. Number the following **events in the order that they occurred** in the story. (1-4) SOL 6.6

\_\_\_\_\_ Willie gives the homeless man a nickel.

\_\_\_\_\_ Willie tells his mother that she is a cave fish.

\_\_\_\_\_ Willie discovers that his mother called the police.

\_\_\_\_\_ Willie gives the homeless man poundcake.

11. Circle the word that best describes Willie's actions. **disobedient** **brilliant** **curious** **bored**  
SOL 6.4

12. Explain the symbolism of the following items from the story. SOL 6.4

Fish with no eyes \_\_\_\_\_

Poundcake \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why does Willie's mother sleep in the afternoon? SOL 6.5

14. Finish the following sentence by choosing **two** synonyms that describe Mrs. Markham. Circle your answers. SOL 6.5

Willie's mother is overly \_\_\_\_\_.

**polite** **caring** **respectful** **protective** **affectionate** **defensive**

15. Why does Willie talk to the man? SOL 6.5

**BONUS:** At the end of the story Willie tells his mother to call him by another name. What is the name?